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Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

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Dee Freeman  
Secretary, DENR

## BATTLE FOR FORT MACON

*RE-ENACTORS FIRE A 32-POUNDER CANNON AT FORT MACON STATE PARK DURING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR BATTLE FOR THE FORT, WHICH WAS COMMEMORATED IN APRIL. FULL STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6. (PHOTO BY MARTIN KANE)*



## KERR LAKE DEDICATES NEW FACILITIES

Kerr Lake State Recreation Area dedicated a new boating access and tournament event area May 4 at its Nutbush Bridge access.

The expansive access covers 8.5 acres at the site of a former camping area and includes

four new ramps, courtesy docks, a 600-square-foot restroom facility and parking areas for 165 vehicles, including 135 spaces for boat trailers and five fully-accessible spaces.

In a first for the state parks system, separate docking and event space is set aside for events such as fishing tournaments, which are extremely popular at the 50,000-acre lake.

"This is a tournament-grade facility that's going to be a great addition at Kerr Lake," said Tommy Marrow, chairman of the park's advisory committee. "We're using it tomorrow for a Boys and Girls Club event."

Marrow, who's father and uncle helped build the reservoir's dam, said recreation facilities have improved substantially at the lake, and the park staff and advisory committee have been committed to spreading improvements among all the recreation area's eight access sites.

The \$2.5-million project was supported by

## MORROW MOUNTAIN BOATHOUSE REBORN

Morrow Mountain State Park dedicated a new recreational boathouse in April that will continue the tradition of visitors exploring Lake Tillery by canoe, paddleboat and rowboat.

The 986-square-foot boathouse replaces a structure built in the early 1950s that was structurally weakened by shoreline erosion and closed in 2010 after severe winter storms.

The boathouse is "literally built on a crossroads of history," said Jonathan Underwood, a park advisory committee member and director

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# LAKE WACCAMAW LURES ‘MADTOM’

Build it and they will come. At least that’s the hope of fisheries biologists after placing an experimental reef at Lake Waccamaw State Park to attract a tiny, gray catfish.

Biologists placed the reef, or “madtom hotel” as they call it, into Lake Waccamaw to help assess the population status of the broadtail madtom, a small species in the catfish family.

Twenty years ago, this native fish, which measures a

mere 2 ½ inches, was more common in the Columbus County lake. The fish, however, is now listed as a state species of special concern, only documented in a handful of locations in the coastal plain of North Carolina and South Carolina.

Ryan Heise, an aquatic wildlife diversity biologist with the commission, and the state park staff hope that the madtom hotel will make it easier for them to find the fish when they sample



*BROADTAIL MADTOM*

the lake this summer.

The small artificial reef marked with a white buoy is constructed of small concrete blocks, each with two crevices that Heise believes should be just the right size for the secretive fish to hide.

Broadtail madtoms are active at night feeding on small invertebrates, but during the day, the fish seek cover.

“We’ll be very excited if we find broadtail madtoms using the artificial reef,” Heise said. “It will mean not only are there more populations than we thought, but also the habitat in the lake is still high quality enough to support them.”

The reef will attract more than just the madtom. Other species, such as the tadpole madtom, bluegill and redear sunfish also will be attracted to the structure.

In addition to the madtom, Lake Waccamaw contains a variety of unique fishes that occur in the lake and nowhere else, including the Waccamaw killfish, Waccamaw silverside and Waccamaw darter.

Research and management of the project is part of the N.C. Wildlife Action Plan and funded through the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund, which is the primary source of funding for the Wildlife Diversity Program. The Commission uses this fund to generate matching money for federal grants.

# DIVISION WINS SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

The Division of Parks and Recreation and its employees were honored in March with an annual Sustainability Award from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for creating a “culture of sustainability” within the agency.

In addition, several employees were honored. Ranger Jack Singley was presented an individual award for a trail project at William B. Umstead State Park, with the help of maintenance mechanic Sam Jordan. And Brittany Whitaker, an interpretive specialist, was part of a committee honored for a unique recycling project.

Bestowing the division’s award in the “large group” category, the department’s award committee said that the state parks system “has established a culture of sustainability that has built on its successes and inspired its employees, volunteers and stakeholders to create sustainable solutions on their own.”

Initiatives that led to the award include adoption of green building techniques for all new large facilities, installation of alternative fuel facilities at Jordan Lake and Falls Lake, replacement of lighting systems wherever possible with efficient LED bulbs, energy audits and aggressive recycling initiatives.

To date, four new visitor centers have earned gold ratings through the LEED program of the U.S. Green Building Council, incorporating such features as geo-thermal heating systems, solar hot-water systems, low-flow water fixtures and broad use of natural lighting.

The division’s commitment to sustainability



*DENR CHIEF DEPUTY SECRETARY MANLY WILDER, FRONT LEFT, PRESENTS THE DIVISION’S AWARD TO DIRECTOR LEWIS LEDFORD AND STAFF.*

has prompted creative ideas from employees. Examples cited were shoreline stabilization projects and trash-free zones at coastal parks, a 60-foot-high wind turbine to generate power at Jockey’s Ridge State Park, native grass plantings at Pilot Mountain State Park that reduce the need for mowing and most printing on 100 percent recycled paper.

The award nomination also noted the state parks system’s influence throughout all of North Carolina: “Through park exhibits, environmental education programs and

outreach visits, the division has a special opportunity to change the behavior of visitors.”

Singley’s project at William B. Umstead State Park tackled the problem of shortcut trails. Singley organized a group of new volunteers to complete a native grass restoration project near the park’s Big Lake and installed an educational kiosk to explain the problems that shortcut trails create.

Whitaker serves on a department recycling subcommittee, which was presented a “small group” award.



*RANGER JACK SINGLEY, RIGHT, AND MAINTENANCE MECHANIC SAM JORDAN, LEFT, ARE HONORED BY DENR DEPUTY SECRETARY MANLY WILDER.*

## From The Director’s Desk

Not only were several state parks employees recognized when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources handed out sustainability awards recently, but the division was awarded as well in the “group” category. The nomination pointed out that the state parks system “established a culture of sustainability that has built on its successes and inspired its employees, volunteers and stakeholders to create sustainable solutions on their own.”

This is as it should be. Good ideas – in this case, ideas to work day-to-day while protecting the environment – travel on a two-way street. The more success we have as a group in implementing sustainable practices, the more it sparks initiative among each of us as individuals. Then in turn, it gradually becomes more ingrained as part of the institutional culture. It’s especially important for the state parks system, since leading by example is a core part of our mission when it comes to conservation of natural resources.

It’s good to be moved into our new headquarters offices in Raleigh’s Nature Research Center. Not only is it just a great place to work, it’s also symbolic of this same commitment to conservation. The facility is literally designed and built around sustainable practices – natural lighting, rainwater collection, solar power, to name just a few. It provides an atmosphere for creative ideas.

On another subject, I want to extend special gratitude to Vance-Granville Community College, Lelia Brigham and Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – especially office assistant Corliss Baskerville – for working to arrange a scholarship in the memory of Corliss’ late father, Nathan S. Burwell Sr., who had a long career as a well-regarded ranger at the park. Ranger Burwell contributed much to the state parks system, and it’s wonderful to see that legacy will continue in his name.

Sincerely,

Lewis Ledford





ABOVE, NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST MARSHALL ELLIS, LEFT, AND BURN BOSS ALLEN ROGERS CONFER ON FIRE PLANS.



SMOKIN'

## PARK STAGES RECORD PRESCRIBED BURN

A prescribed burn launched at South Mountains State Park in March set several records in North Carolina.

The burn covered 1,638 acres in the state park and adjoining South Mountains Game Land. That included 631 acres burned in the park – the largest acreage ever covered by a single burn – and the event set a similar record for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission for mountain gamelands.

The three-day event was also the largest cooperative burn project in the state's history involving the wildlife agency, the state parks and

the N.C. Forest Service. More than 60 personnel were involved included members of the forest service's BRIDGE program for youth offenders.

The burn was regarded as largely successful although the rugged terrain and mild and contrary breezes presented challenges.

Persistent, low-lying smoke was an issue for burn crews, said Ranger Allen Rogers, the burn boss for the state park. However, relatively little low-lying smoke escaped the park and gamelands boundaries, causing little concern for neighbors in the area.

Dean Simon, a forester with the Wildlife Resources Commission credited the effort's success to careful planning and close coordination among the agencies.

Some portions of the gamelands tract had been burned once or twice before Simon said, while other acreage had never been treated with prescribed fire.

A system of regular prescribed burns improves the habitat of early successional wildlife such as quail, rabbit, songbirds and other species, and it benefits many plant species including rare plants such as white irisette and bear oak.

The burn also significantly reduced brush and fuel loads that could have contributed to dangerous wildfires.

The winter burn season just concluded was one of the most active for the state parks system with a burn of more than 500 acres completed on the summit of Crowders Mountain and aggressive prescribed fire events at Pilot Mountain, Hanging Rock and a number of parks on the coastal plain with longleaf pine habitat.



RANGERS, FORESTERS AND VOLUNTEERS COMBINED TO MAN FIRE LINES THAT STRETCHED FOR SEVERAL MILES.



## DPR NOW AT NATURE RESEARCH CENTER

The Division of Parks and Recreation moved its headquarters April 27 to the environmentally-friendly Nature Research Center in Raleigh.

Fifty-three employees from the Archdale Building and Yorkshire Center made the move to the new four-story office complex nestled between the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences' new wing within the center and the new Green Square complex that houses the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. All are connected by above-street bridges.

Aside from division administration, the headquarters houses some operations staff, the trails program, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund administrators, state park planners, the design and development team and the natural resource management and land protection programs.

The 80,000-square-foot Nature Research Center



THE SECU DAILY PLANET ANCHORS THE NATURE RESEARCH CENTER.

offers state-of-the-art exhibits on scientific research as well as laboratories offering the public opportunities to interact with researchers.

The building's signature feature is the three-story SECU Planet Earth multimedia sphere, overlaid with topographic maps of the earth with an interior theater.

The Nature Research Center, its exhibits and sphere

cost \$56 million with the State Employees Credit Union and private donations contributing to the cost. The SECU is building a high-rise office building adjacent to the complex.

The center was built with environmental sustainability in mind with broad use of natural lighting, permeable sidewalks, rainwater recovery systems and electric-car charging stations. Solar collectors generate much of the electricity needed for building operations.

Low-flow water systems and LED lighting are used throughout the offices.

The center's opening was heralded with a 24-hour celebration, launched with a parade led by the division's state park ranger Honor Guard, a marching band, Gov. Bev Perdue and a group dignitaries.

In the past, the state parks and museum staff have occasionally mounted joint research projects on species and habitats. The facility with its working laboratories and proximity of staff from both agencies will increase the opportunities for collaboration.



RANGER HONOR GUARD LEADS THE PARADE FOR THE CENTER'S OPENING.





# BATTLE FOR FORT MACON

Bugles sounded, flags unfurled and both Federal and Confederate troops heaved across the hot sand dunes of Fort Macon State Park for two days in April.

But the heroes of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Fort Macon were three brothers poised on the ramparts of the 178-year-old fort. Each time they spoke, visitors cheered. When they all barked in unison, the sand shifted with the concussion.

The three, 32-pounder cannon (newly acquired) are exact replicas of the armament that gave the fort its bite during the Civil War, hurling iron balls up to three miles away. Augmented by smaller field artillery and more than 200 re-enactors, they carried more than 12,000 park visitors back to 1862 when Federal forces re-took the fort from a small contingent of Confederate artillerymen.

In turn, the three carefully choreographed reenactments over two days were supported by continuous living history demonstrations of both Federal and Confederate troops – encampments, string music, musket firings, Antebellum fashion shows and parade drills for children.

The Fort Macon event was in keeping with similar observances across the country during 2011-15, marking the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It is one of the largest sesquicentennial events in North Carolina and the largest reenactment in the state park's history.

"Fort Macon is North Carolina's second-oldest state park, but its dramatic history, dating to 1834, is also interwoven into that of the North Carolina coast and the state as a whole," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

"It's fitting that we celebrate not only this contribution to our shared history, but Fort Macon State Park's contributions to protection of our



coastal resources and the region's economy."

The details of the fort's decisive battle are not well known, even in the coastal region where Revolutionary and Civil War history is pervasive.

The siege of the fort began in March 1862, with the first demand by the Federal forces of Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside (he of the peculiar whiskers) for the surrender of the fort held by Confederate

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forces of Col Moses J. White. The Confederates had quietly taken control soon after hostilities began.

White rebuffed Burnside. The Federal troops began a siege culminating on April 25 in a bombardment by Federal artillery positioned in the sand dunes about three-quarters of a mile away, supported by U.S. Navy gunboats offshore.

The 11-hour bombardment ended with the fort heavily damaged and in danger of being destroyed by the explosion of its own gunpowder magazines. Col. White had no choice but to surrender the following morning. Federal troops occupied the fort for the remainder of the war.

A special nighttime cannonade was a special treat for visitors and the re-enactors, most of whom had never witnessed the special brand of fireworks that cannon can display in near-total darkness.

Re-enactors, with the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Volunteers/11<sup>th</sup> Regiment acting as host unit, portrayed both sides during the battles, with many wives and children tagging along in period dress.

The artillery barrages were aided by personnel from the Fort Fisher and Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson state historic sites, as well as new aluminum gun carriages fashioned for the 32-pounders by students and Wayne Community College.



Other event sponsors included Atlantic Beach, Morehead City, the Morehead City Marlins and the Beaufort Historical Association.

On April 25 – the actual anniversary of the bombardment – the park held a quiet remembrance of the men of both sides who fought and died in the siege. And, on April 26, a Confederate flag was lowered and a United States flag raised, exactly 150 years to the hour when these actions took place in 1862.





# KERR LAKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the major funding source for state parks capital projects and land acquisition.

Since its creation in 1994, the trust fund has provided just over \$20 million for improvements at the state recreation area.

The park is among the system's busiest with more the 1.2 million visitors recorded in 2011, and more than 600 campsites are available through the central reservations system.

"Kerr Lake not only provides recreation but is an important venue for sporting events, both of which contribute significantly to the local economy. These new facilities will further define Kerr Lake as a sporting and recreation destination," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

A 2007 economic study found that the state park unit contributes more than \$21 million to the local economy in Vance, Granville and Warren counties each year, returning \$5.80 for each \$1 invested.



THE PRIMARY DOCKING AREA OFFERS FOUR BOAT RAMPS AND RESTROOMS.



NANCY WILSON, CENTER, OF VANCE COUNTY'S TOURISM OFFICE CUTS THE RIBBON ALONGSIDE TOMMY MARROW OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

# MORROW MOUNTAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission.

The site held stone fish traps built by American Indians as well as a ferry dock used by early settlers and was within earshot of two early county seats. Underwood said personal histories of many longtime residents of the area are tied closely to the state park.

"Here, we not only celebrate the reopening of a boathouse but a reopening of a gateway to our history," he said.

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BOATHOUSE DESIGN INCORPORATES NATIVE STONE QUARRIED ONSITE.

# YOUNG NATURALISTS

YOUNG NATURALISTS IN THE HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK AREA SPENT PART OF THEIR SPRING BREAK PLANTING MARSH GRASS ON JONES ISLAND, AFTER KAYAKING TO THE ISLAND FROM THE MAINLAND VISITOR CENTER.



# MORROW MOUNTAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The facility offers paddleboat and rowboat slips and a storage area for canoes, all of which can be rented by visitors, as well as all-season restrooms and a concession stand.

The area also serves as a trailhead for a route along the lakeshore, popular with hikers and fishermen.

The structure incorporates recycled stoned used in the original boathouse and stone stored elsewhere in the park that was quarried onsite by CCC workers in the 1930s, combining it with red cedar and plank siding.

The \$1.1 million project funded by the N.C Parks and Recreation Trust Fund also includes shoreline stabilization to prevent erosion and a new courtesy dock at the public boat launch.

The designer was Smith Sinnett Architecture of Raleigh and general contractor was Kearey Builders Inc. of Statesville.



CHILDREN AT THE CEREMONY HELP CUT THE RIBBON FOR THE \$1.1 MILLION PROJECT THAT ALSO INCLUDES SHORELINE STABILIZATION.

For decades, the state park's facilities on Lake Tillery have served an important role for recreation in the community, said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

"While North Carolina has been aggressive in developing new state parks recently, it is important that we care for and improve our established parks with projects such as this."



# PARTF GRANT DEMAND STILL STRONG

Despite recession-plagued budgets, local governments are still aggressively seeking grants for recreation projects from the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

At its May meeting in Raleigh, the authority approved an initial round of grants – \$1.56 million to 10 local governments. The 10 were chosen from 60 applications from towns and counties, requesting \$12.6 million.

The total amount anticipated for local and state grants will be considerably less than in recent years due to economic conditions. Additional grants are expected to be made in July as more trust fund revenue materializes.

The trust fund authority members were briefed about the grants cycle at its earlier meeting at Carolina Beach State Park in March.

Many of the requests are modest; about one third are for \$100,000 or less when the maximum grant amount is \$500,000. But local governments are willing to match each \$1 in trust fund grants with an average \$1.60 in local spending, trust fund administrator Bayard Alcorn told the authority members.

The grants required dollar-for-dollar matches from the local governments.

Thirty percent of trust fund revenues generated by real estate taxes is set aside for local government grants for parks and recreation projects, with 65 percent dedicated to state parks land acquisition and capital projects and 5 percent for coastal beach access.



SUPT. CHRIS HELMS SHOWS TRUST FUND AUTHORITY MEMBERS NEW IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MARINA AT CAROLINA BEACH STATE PARK.

Alcorn also presented an analysis of grant awards over the program's 18-year history showing that distribution of the funds has remained quite stable across the state's geographic regions and among town and counties of different sizes. Such even-handed distribution was one of the mandates of the General Assembly when it established the trust fund in 1994.

Charting the awards over time reveals short-term imbalances – in some years, large cities seemed to get more grant awards, for instance – but the percentages remained consistent long-term.

Authority member Phil McKnelly said he and others are reassured by the analysis and fairness is key to legislative support for the program.

"I feel we can go to anyone in the General Assembly and show them where their counties have benefitted from this program," he said.

A principal item of business for the authority in March was to reallocate \$6.8 million in land acquisition funding. The funds are available because some land was acquired at lower cost than expected and some projects could not be completed.

The authority accepted a staff recommendation to redirect \$1.8 million to land acquisition projects at four parks:

- Chimney Rock State Park for a three-acre parcel with a house that would provide a secure entrance to the World's Edge tract at the park's southern boundary;

- Mayo River State Park to provide partial funding for an 83-acre tract on Cedar Mountain across the river from the park's current main entrance;

- Mount Jefferson State Natural Area for partial funding of a 53-acre tract between the mountain's summit and NC 16;
- Mount Mitchell State Park for

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## RANGER COMMISSION

RANGER KATHERINE TROTTER OF MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK RECEIVED HER LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION IN APRIL. FROM LEFT, PARK SUPERINTENDENT JASON GWINN, TROTTER, SOUTH DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELIA ALLCOX, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS MIKE LAMBERT.



## TRUST FUND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

two small tracts along the ridgeline of the Black Mountain range.

The Chimney Rock, Mayo River and Mount Jefferson projects are also partially funded by other state conservation trust funds.

A hoped-for acquisition of property that would connect two sections of Elk Knob State Park could not be negotiated. The authority voted to free up \$5 million that had been allocated for that purchase for other potential park acquisitions. The funding is in Certificates of Participation, a 20-year financing instrument similar to bonds.

As part of his report to the authority on recent developments, Lewis Ledford, state parks director, said the Elk Knob property could still ultimately be added to the system, but an agreement is not imminent.

Ledford also briefed the authority on issues related to a marina lease at Jordan Lake, the staff's move to new offices in the Nature Research Center in Raleigh, the current budget situation for the trust fund and a legislative study on state park operations.

He noted the record attendance in 2011 of 14.2 million visitors in the state parks and state recreation areas.

"Even in this Great Recession, I don't know that we've ever had a time where we've had more use of the state parks or more support for the parks," Ledford said.

A recent report by the legislature's Program Evaluation Division is still being studied by committees of the General Assembly, he said. The report recommends that some consolidation of park operations be considered and that more detailed study of park visitation be undertaken



WOODARD GURLEY OF LENOIR COUNTY, SECOND FROM LEFT, IS SWORN IN AS AN AUTHORITY MEMBER, WITH AN EYE TOWARD POTENTIAL DAILY OR SEASONAL PARK CLOSINGS.

Authority Member Lydia Boesch attended a committee session on the report and said parks system staff was thorough in providing information for legislators.

"The public doesn't want parks to close," she said. "We can harness this pushback from the public."

While at the two-day meeting, the authority took the opportunity to tour both Carolina Beach State Park and Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, including the new Carolina Beach marina, which was significantly upgraded with allocations from the trust fund.

The group also heard presentations from Andy Wood, education director for Audubon North Carolina, and Camilla Herlevich, executive director of the Coastal Land Trust.

Both organizations are active partners with the state parks system in land acquisition and natural resource protection. Audubon helps manage some non-public areas of the state parks.



## RANGER'S LIFE INSPIRES SCHOLARSHIP

A new scholarship was endowed recently at Vance-Granville Community College in memory of the late Nathan S. Burwell Sr. of Manson, a former state park ranger at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area.

The scholarship fund was created by Burwell's longtime friend, Lelia Brigham of Henderson, who is also a part-time art instructor at the community college.

Burwell was a Vance County native who began his career of state service around 1968 and became a park ranger in 1972 at what was then called the Kerr Reservoir Commission. He held that position until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1995. He passed away in 1996.

During Burwell's early years at Kerr Lake, the office manager was Lelia Brigham's late husband, John Brigham.

"He dedicated his life to caring for his family and community," said Burwell's youngest daughter, Corliss Burwell Baskerville, who is now a senior office assistant at the state recreation area.

"During his career with state parks, he touched many lives and made an abundance of friendships, and one of those lasting friendships was with John and Lelia Brigham.

That friendship later transferred to Baskerville, who worked with Brigham during the



FROM LEFT, LELIA BRIGHAM AND CORLISS BURWELL BASKERVILLE PRESENTED THE CONTRIBUTIONS CREATING THE SCHOLARSHIP TO VGCC PRESIDENT DR. STEFANIE WILLIAMS AND ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN ROBERT HUBBARD

summer of 1979. She joined the state park staff permanently in 1996.

In awarding the Nathan Burwell Memorial Academic Achievement Scholarship, preference will be given to former adult basic skills students who earned a GED or Adult High School Diploma at the community college, which prepared them to enroll in a curriculum program to earn a certificate, diploma or degree.

The new scholarship will add to the more than 6,500 scholarship that the school has awarded since 1982. Scholarships have been established by

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## HALL PROMOTED AT LAKE WACCAMAW

Toby Hall, a veteran park ranger, has been promoted to superintendent of Lake Waccamaw State Park in Columbus County. He succeeds Chris Helms, who accepted the position of superintendent at Carolina Beach State Park.

A superintendent is the chief of operations

and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource protection and environmental education.

Hall has served 10 years as a ranger at Lake Waccamaw. A native of Ashland,



Maine, he graduated from the University of Maine in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management. He worked as a seasonal law enforcement ranger at Acadia and Grand Canyon national Parks.

Hall joined the staff at Lake Waccamaw in 1999, leaving from 2004-07 to serve as a wildlife enforcement officer in Robeson County. He holds certifications in environmental education and advanced law enforcement.

"Toby brings a wealth of experience to the supervision of Lake Waccamaw State Park. He knows the region and its natural resources quite well and the community knows him," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

"His commitment and leadership skills contributed to Lake Waccamaw being named Park of the Year in 2011."

Established in 1976, Lake Waccamaw State Park encompasses 2,159 acres and reported visitation of 86,068 in 2011.

## WILKERSON SUPERINTENDENT AT CLIFFS

Edward Wilkerson, a veteran park ranger, has been promoted to superintendent of Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Wayne County.

A superintendent is the chief of operations and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource protection and environmental education.

A native of Richmond, Va., Wilkerson graduated in 1990 from



East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in English and economics. He also holds an applied sciences degree in forest management technology from Wayne Technical College.

Wilkerson served as assistant county forest ranger for the N.C. Forestry Service in Halifax County before joining the state parks system in 2005 as a ranger at Medoc Mountain State Park. He also served as acting superintendent at the park.

Wilkerson holds certifications in environmental education, intermediate law enforcement and prescribed burning.

"Edward has the well-rounded experience in all aspects of state park operations that the division seeks in a park superintendent. This will be valuable both to him and to Cliffs of the Neuse State Park as it continues to grow and develop," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park was established in 1945, and now encompasses 892 acres. It reported visitation of 166,674 in 2011.

## DAVIDSON WILL LEAD RAVEN ROCK

Jeffery Davidson Jr., a veteran park ranger, has been promoted to superintendent of Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County. He succeeds Kristen Woodruff, who accepted a position as superintendent of Singletary Lake State Park.

A superintendent is the chief of operations and administration at a state park or state recreation area with wide-ranging responsibilities for staffing, training, law enforcement, visitor services, natural resource protection and environmental education.

A native of Asheboro, Davidson graduated in 2005 from Campbell University with a bachelor's degree in biology. He worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Oklahoma, as a researcher for the North Carolina State University and as a seasonal employee at Raven Rock State Park before becoming a fulltime ranger at Lumber River State



Park in 2008.

At Lumber River, Davidson managed operations at the Chalk Banks access area and was the state park's volunteer coordinator. He holds certifications in environmental education and intermediate law enforcement and is a kayak/canoe program leader.

"Jeffery has extensive experience, not only in park operations, but natural resource management and education, which are the core components of our mission," said Lewis Ledford, state parks director.

"He'll be a valuable leader at Raven Rock State Park, which is gaining in popularity with its new visitor center and improved trails systems."

Raven Rock State Park was established in 1969, and now encompasses 4,694 acres. It reported visitation of 152,665 in 2011.

## SCHOLARSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

individuals, businesses, civic groups, churches and the college's faculty and staff to assist deserving students.

Tax-deductible donations to the VGCC Endowment Fund have often been used to honor or remember a person, group or business or industry with a lasting gift to education.



STUDENTS ON SPRING BREAK HELP PARKS

Students from Penn State University sought out a state park in North Carolina in which to spend their spring break in March—not for a vacation but to volunteer on a service project.

Merchants Millpond happened to have just such a project, building new canoe-in campsites on Bennett’s Creek a couple miles downstream from the pond itself.

Braving some cool and sometimes wet weather, the five students of alpha phi omega fraternity spent three days working and camping at the park and combining work with some relaxation time kayaking the creek.

The national coed fraternity, with more than 17,000 members, has a mission to teach leadership through service.

Meanwhile at Jockey’s Ridge State Park, 13 students from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. arrived to help bag oyster shells to create a reef that will improve habitat for young oysters and other marine life.

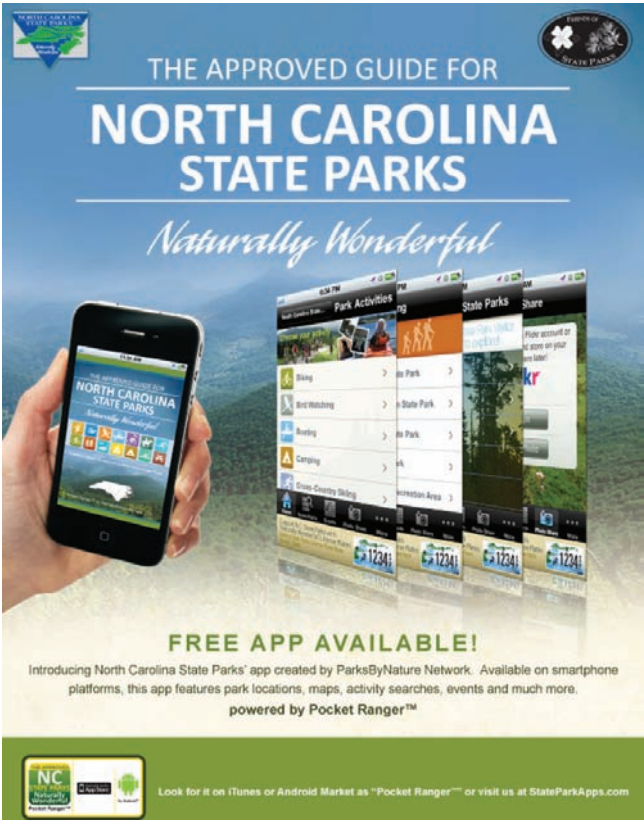


STUDENTS HELPED BUILD CANOE-IN CAMPSITES AT MERCHANTS MILLPOND STATE PARK.

The 10-day trip was sponsored by the university, which picked up most of the cost, including a hang-gliding excursion.

The project, and others along the coast during spring break, was coordinated by the N.C. Coastal Federation, which has partnered with the state parks system on several oyster reef efforts.

“I love volunteering,” said Lydia Claire Wilson Lyles, an Austin Peay senior. “Being able to meet and work with different types of people from my school, who all come from all different regions and walks of life – that’s pretty special.”



NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS  
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT  
APRIL, 2012

NC STATE PARK	April 2012	TOTAL YTD Apr-12	April 2011	TOTAL YTD Apr-11	% CHANGE (2012/2011) Apr YTD	
Carolina Beach State Park	44,534	199,494	50,628	162,568	-12%	23%
Carvers Creek State Park	15	27	0	0	-100%	-100%
Chimney Rock State Park	17,368	27,354	15,670	24,420	11%	12%
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park	14,355	44,193	13,602	41,042	6%	8%
Crowders Mountain State Park	34,459	104,617	43,854	136,074	-21%	-23%
Dismal Swamp State Park	7,864	23,803	9,446	25,793	-17%	-8%
Elk Knob State Park	1,962	8,345	1,417	5,368	38%	55%
Eno River State Park including Oconeechee Mountain State Natural Area	47,450	156,757	45,177	150,152	5%	4%
Falls Lake State Recreation Area	108,454	200,027	70,421	130,202	54%	54%
Fort Fisher State Recreation Area	78,308	162,869	71,335	147,711	10%	10%
Fort Macon State Park	102,798	265,240	125,440	291,102	-18%	-9%
Goose Creek State Park	38,364	116,444	26,716	61,536	44%	89%
Gorges State Park	7,396	22,787	6,741	16,406	10%	39%
Grandfather Mountain State Park	8,302	15,806	1,792	3,613	363%	337%
Hammocks Beach State Park	11,281	30,333	9,132	27,897	24%	9%
Haw River State Park	3,733	9,687	1,762	5,784	112%	67%
Hanging Rock State Park	45,179	109,953	46,698	115,674	-3%	-5%
Jones Lake State Park	8,382	27,977	2,841	7,599	195%	268%
Jordan Lake State Recreation Area	120,943	235,026	62,964	136,170	92%	73%
Jockey Ridge State Park	90,766	172,636	156,281	274,767	-42%	-37%
Kerr Lake State Recreation Area	88,476	227,624	161,583	296,624	-45%	-23%
Lake James State Park	33,361	100,527	53,034	129,930	-37%	-23%
Lake Norman State Park	49,044	143,369	47,418	129,873	3%	10%
Lake Waccamaw State Park	15,138	36,183	7,548	22,336	101%	62%
Lumber River State Park	5,456	15,493	8,876	19,220	-39%	-19%
Mayo River State Park	3,497	11,663	3,239	8,777	8%	33%
Merchants Millpond State Park	33,996	113,978	29,102	84,747	17%	34%
Medoc Mountain State Park	14,672	27,084	10,600	22,619	38%	20%
Mount Mitchell State Park	19,324	32,929	17,561	25,674	10%	28%
Morrow Mountain State Park	46,694	102,145	38,107	102,017	23%	0%
New River State Park including Mount Jefferson State Natural Area	18,796	48,287	20,282	45,614	-7%	6%
Pettigrew State Park	7,904	19,597	8,398	18,044	-6%	9%
Pilot Mountain State Park	45,005	111,661	40,404	100,064	11%	12%
Raven Rock State Park	21,190	55,425	15,700	51,080	35%	9%
Singletary Lake State Park	1,573	5,975	2,682	5,640	-41%	6%
South Mountains State Park	21,000	55,420	19,218	52,568	9%	5%
Stone Mountain State Park	28,542	69,986	37,972	95,512	-25%	-27%
Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve	4,864	18,646	5,211	19,902	-7%	-6%
William B. Umstead State Park	110,225	336,657	94,254	288,657	17%	17%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,360,670	3,466,024	1,383,106	3,282,776	-2%	6%

‘PARK’ IT  
WITH A STATE PARKS  
SPECIALTY LICENSE TAG

The Division of Motor Vehicles is accepting applications and payment for these special license plates. There is a \$30 fee in addition to regular license fees (\$60 for personalized plates). Additional fees support conservation through the Parks and Recreation and Natural Heritage trust funds.

Information at [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)  
or [www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv)







## ***Our Mission Remains...***

to protect North Carolina's **natural diversity**;  
to provide and promote **outdoor recreation**  
opportunities throughout North Carolina;  
to exemplify and encourage **good stewardship**  
of North Carolina's natural resources for all  
citizens and visitors.

*8,000 copies of this public document were printed  
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## ***SAFETY ZONE***

### **RESPECT THE POWER OF ELECTRICITY**

✓Never alter plugs to make them fit sockets; grounds are there for a reason.

✓Inspect electrical cords and plugs before using them. Replace or repair those that are worn or damaged.

✓When working outside, use only extension cords that are specifically rated for outdoor use.

✓Be sure to isolate all potential energy sources whenever you perform any troubleshooting maintenance or repairs.

*The Steward*  
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